



## AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL OSAKA-KOBE

11-5 Nishitenma 2-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-8543

Tel. 06-6315-5912/FAX 06-6315-5914

*e-mail:* [AOK@state.gov](mailto:AOK@state.gov)

### MARRIAGE IN JAPAN

A Guide for American Citizens

Americans can get married in Japan, either to a Japanese, to another American or to a person from another foreign country. You will marry under Japanese civil procedures at a village, town, ward, or city office. Your legally registered marriage in Japan is fully recognized in the United States. For information whether your spouse's country may recognize the marriage, please consult with the relevant Embassy/Consulate. Since your marriage is registered under the Japanese authorities, when you will need your marriage certificate, you must contact the Japanese civil office where your marriage is registered. The U.S. Consulate General does not issue a marriage certificate. Please note that religious ceremonies or other ceremonial marriage rites in Japan are not legal marriages, although they may be conducted in addition to civil registration of marriage. U.S. Embassy or Consulate officials cannot witness or perform marriages.

U.S. citizens under age 21 must be of marriageable age under the state law of their U.S. residence. All other applicable state laws must also be adhered to for the marriage to be legal in Japan. Under the Japanese civil code, Japanese citizen male can marry at the age 18 years or older and Japanese citizen female can marry at the age 16 years or older. A person who is under the age 20 must have a parental consent to marriage. A woman cannot marry within six months after dissolution of a previous marriage.

The U.S. government does not require the reporting or registration of your marriage outside the U.S. As an American citizen, the only procedure you must do at the Consulate General in order to marry in Japan is to complete a "Certificate of Competency to Marry" (*Konin Yoken Gubi Shomeisho* 婚姻要件具備証明書). Full instructions, as well as a blank copy of the required form, are included in this packet. If you will marry to a person other than Japanese or American citizen in Japan, your fiancé(e) should contact his/her own Embassy or Consulate in Japan to know how he/she can marry in Japan.

#### **STEP ONE: Certificate of Competency to Marry**

American citizens must complete a "Certificate of Competency to Marry" (*Konin Yoken Gubi Shomeisho* 婚姻要件具備証明書) at the Consulate General in order to marry in Japan. This document is required by the Japanese authorities when a non-Japanese citizen marries in Japan. Please note that your marriage in Japan may not be recognized legal for the purpose of your non-U.S. citizen spouse's immigration to the U.S. if you file the marriage paperwork without both you and your fiancé(e) being physically present in Japan. American citizens who are also Japanese citizens (i.e., "dual nationals") are considered by the Japanese authorities as Japanese citizens, therefore, you will not need a certificate of competency to marry. After your marriage though, we can accept your application for a name change of your U.S. passport based upon your marriage in Japan for people including dual nationals.

To obtain a "Certificate of Competency to Marry", you must appear in person at the Consulate General. You must bring;

1. Your U.S. passport,
2. A copy of the attached "Certificate of Competency to Marry" form, completed on one side in English and the other in Japanese (Consulate staff cannot help you complete the Japanese portion of the form). DO NOT SIGN THE FORM IN ADVANCE. You will sign the form in front of a Consular officer.
3. The fee for this service is US\$50, payable in cash either in U.S. Dollars or Japanese Yen (at the Consulate General exchange rate), or by major credit cards.
4. If you have any previous marriages, proof of termination of all of your previous marriages.

If two American citizens are to wed, they may complete a joint affidavit. The total fee for this is US\$50. U.S. Military personnel particularly if stationed in Japan are subject to additional requirements; please contact the legal aid office at your Command Authority for additional details.

All the walk-in services except an emergency are by appointment only. Generally, we accept appointments between 9 a.m. and noon and from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on our business days. You can make an appointment on our website at: <http://osaka.usconsulate.gov/service.html>. If you arrive at the Consulate early enough, you may be able to complete the "Certificate of Competency to Marry" and register your marriage with the Kita ward office in Osaka city on the same day. According to a local ward office, a notarized "Certificate of Competency to Marry" can be accepted by a ward office **within two months** from the date of notarization at the Consulate General.

## **STEP TWO: Registering Your Marriage with the Japanese Authorities**

The following is a general outline of what you might expect when you register your marriage with the Japanese civil authorities. However, as you will marry under Japanese law, we strongly advise you to contact the Japanese civil office where you plan to register the marriage to determine their exact requirements in your specific case.

You must submit a completed Application for Registration of Marriage (*Konin Todoke* 婚姻届) signed by you and your fiancé(e), and also two witnesses of your marriage. Sample completed forms are attached. Blank forms are available at a Japanese civil office. The witnesses can be of any nationality, but must be an adult age 20 or older. Generally non-Japanese witnesses will sign in longhand, while Japanese, Korean and Chinese national witnesses may be asked for their seal (Inkan 印鑑).

Other than the Certificate of Competency to Marry, American citizens are often required to present his/her original U.S. passport and a certified copy of their birth certificate. If you have any previous marriages, you will also need to present proof of termination of your each marriage. For Americans, this proof of termination of previous marriage may include certified copies of the final court decree of divorce or annulment of prior marriages, or certified copies of a former spouse's death certificate. If the former spouse was a Japanese citizen, a certified copy of Rikon Todoke Juri Shomeisho (離婚届受理証明書) or a certified copy of family register showing termination of marriage may also be used. To request your birth certificate or divorce decree

from appropriate authorities in the U.S, the information about how to obtain vital records is available from the websites at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm> The Consulate General cannot obtain them for you. Your birth certificate and proof of termination of previous marriage must be presented along with Japanese translations of summary of content that include names of your parents from your birth certificate, and dates of termination of marriage from your proof of termination of previous marriages, if applicable.

Japanese citizens will require a certified copy of their family register (*Koseki Tohon* 戸籍謄本) issued within a month. Korean, Chinese or other nationals who are long-term permanent residents in Japan, or those who lack diplomatic or consular representation here should contact the appropriate Japanese authorities for details.

After marriage, you should request a "Certificate of Acceptance of Notification of Marriage" (*Konin Todoke Juri Shomeisho* 婚姻届受理証明書). There are two versions of this certificate. We recommend that you ask for the **large version** (see attached sample), which includes the witnesses' names. This document is your primary proof of legal marriage. The document currently costs ¥1400.

Although Japanese citizens are normally supposed to register their marriages where they currently reside or have legal domicile. However, the Kita ward office (北区役所) in Osaka city can accept marriage registrations from U.S. citizens. In order for you to have your translation of marriage certificate notarized by us on the same day you come to us for Certificate of Competency to Marry, you can come to us in the morning for the certificate and then, make an appointment with us to come back in the afternoon, and then visit Kita ward office for marriage registration, and come back to us for your notarization of the translation.

*Please note that the above information, "STEP TWO: REGISTERING YOUR MARRIAGE WITH THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES" is provided as general guidance. For additional details, or if you have questions, please contact the Japanese civil office where you plan to marry.*

### **STEP THREE (recommended): AFTER REGISTERING YOUR MARRIAGE**

The Japanese "Certificate of Acceptance of Notification of Marriage" issued by the Japanese civil office is your **legal marriage document**. There is no requirement to register your marriage in Japan with the U.S. government or with any U.S. state government. Your Japanese marriage is recognized by the U.S. government. You can have your English translation of Japanese marriage certificate notarized at the Consulate General, or a notary public in the U.S.:

#### **Notarization at the Consulate General**

You can have anyone well versed in the Japanese and English languages do the translation of the "Certificate of Acceptance of Notification of Marriage". A blank form for English translation of large version of certificate is attached to this information sheet. The translator can then visit our office for our notarization bringing with her/him the following items:

- (a) the original certificate
- (b) a photo ID such as a passport or a driver's license
- (c) a completed translation of the certificate
- (d) a fee of US\$50.00 or its yen equivalent in cash.

**Your Japanese Immigration Status.**

For information on obtaining a Japanese immigration status to enable a non-Japanese national to live in Japan, please contact the appropriate Japanese Immigration authorities. General information is available by visiting nearest Immigration Information Center located at an Immigration Office in each area, or by calling the central number for the Immigration Information Center at: 0570-013904, or 03-5796-7112.

**Your Spouse's U.S. Immigrant Visa for Permanent Residency**

If you and your alien spouse plan to live in the United States, your spouse will need an immigrant visa ("Green Card"). The information about how you apply for an immigrant visa is available at the Embassy's website at: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/>  
The Consulate General Osaka-Kobe does not process immigrant visas.

Japan )  
Prefecture of Osaka )  
City of Osaka ) ss:  
Consulate General of the )  
United States of America )

**Joint Affidavit of:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of groom) (name of bride)

**Declarant (Groom):** \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name of groom)

**Legal Domicile:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(U.S. address)

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Passport Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Issued on:** \_\_\_\_\_ **valid until:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Date)

**Local Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your address in Japan)

**Declarant (Bride):** \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name of bride)

**Legal Domicile:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(U.S. address)

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Passport Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Issued on:** \_\_\_\_\_ **valid until:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Place) (Date)

**Local Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

We, the above-named \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ being  
duly sworn, do declare that according to the laws of our respective states, each of us is of legal marriageable age, that neither  
of us has been married before or all prior marriages have been legally terminated, and that there is no hindrance, legal or  
otherwise to our marriage in Japan.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Consul of the United States of America

日本国 )  
大阪府大阪市 ) ss:  
米国総領事館 )

共同宣誓書

(新郎氏名)

(新婦氏名)

宣誓者(新郎) : 

(新郎フルネーム)

法廷住所 : アメリカ合衆国

(米国住所)

生年月日 :

生まれた場所 :

米国旅券番号 :

旅券発行日 : 有効期限 :

現住所 : 

(日本国内の住所)

宣誓者(新婦) : 

(新婦フルネーム)

法廷住所 : アメリカ合衆国

(米国住所)

生年月日 :

生まれた場所 :

米国旅券番号 :

旅券発行日 : 有効期限 :

現住所 : 

(日本国内の住所)

上記、私たち と は、それぞれ私たちの本国の州の法律により、法定の婚姻可能な年齢にありかつ、以前の婚姻のないこと、あるいは過去のすべての婚姻は法律上解消していること、そして日本での婚姻のためのいかなる法的またはその他の支障がないことを、宣誓いたします。

(署名)

(署名)

平成 年 月 日、私の面前にて宣誓、署名した。

訳文検認者 在大阪-神戸米国（副）領事

(署名)

(米国総領事館職員)

# 婚姻届受理証明書

国籍 アメリカ合衆国

夫

西暦 年 月 日生

妻

昭和 年 月 日生

右当事者の婚姻届は、証人

連署の上

届け出られたと認め、本職は審査の上、  
平成 年 月 日これを受理した。

よつてここに法律上婚姻は、成立  
したことになる。

右証明する。

平成 年 月 日

号

日本国政府戸籍事務管掌者

第

大阪市北区長

# *Certificate of Acceptance of Notification of Marriage*

*Indication of nationality or legal domicile:*

*Husband:*

*Born:*

*Indication of nationality or legal domicile:*

*Wife :*

*Born:*

*The notification of marriage of the above-mentioned parties  
concerned was submitted with the signatures of the witnesses*

*..... and.....*

*whereupon this office after due examination, duly accepted the  
notification on .....*

*Therefore, the marriage is hereby legally established.*

*The above certified.*

*Date: ..... Number: .....*

*(SEAL) .....*

*Person authorized to handle family registration matters  
of the Japanese Government.*